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ABSTRACT

Noting that understanding what your children think, feel, and need at each stage of their development is critical to helping them be successful, these four videotapes outline a new approach to parenting that provides the necessary tools to understand your children's perspective on the world, and establish a family structure to best promote the child's growth and development. The first videotape, "Focus on the Children," explores the characteristics of a family environment--tasks, rules, relationships--and notes that what is most emphasized in the family environment are the areas in which children will become competent. The video then provides a framework for a successful balance of these elements: take a developmental perspective in dealing with children; understand and adapt the family environment to child's developmental needs at a given age; and provide clear and consistent family leadership. The video then details the six vital principles of this leadership: (1) prepare more than you punish; (2) communicate more than you control; (3) encourage more than you criticize; (4) involve and individualize; (5) love more than you isolate; and (6) love enough to limit. The second video, "Beginnings--Birth to Age 5," explores the developmental (cognitive, kinesthetic, and emotional) needs of children at various points in this age range, and how to balance the three elements of family environment and apply the six principles of leadership appropriately to these needs. The third video, "Consolidation--Ages 6-11," notes that in this age range, children begin spending more time in other venues such as school or friends' houses, and individual capabilities are becoming visible. The video then details the physical, mental, social, emotional, and moral aspects of the child's development during these years, and how to balance the elements of the family environment and apply the six principles of leadership appropriately for this developmental stage. The fourth video, "Flexibility/Launching--Ages 12 and Up," notes that during adolescence, children encounter some of the challenges adults face, and that a smooth adolescence requires use of the family relationship rather than the rules to motivate appropriate behavior. The video then details the physical mental, emotional, social, and moral aspects of adolescent development, and how to balance the elements of the family environment and to apply the six principles of leadership appropriately for this developmental stage. The videos include vignettes illustrating application of the leadership principles. (HTH)

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